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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION WOMEN IN NUMISMATICS

winning ways

'Greek Fire'

VOLUME 9 NO. 2 APRIL, 2000

WIN

WOMEN IN NUMISMATICS
Organization Mailing Address:
Rita Jene Sledz-Secretary WIN
5175 Gloria
Wayne, MI 48784
734-721-4991

(NEW) BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter

WINNING WAYS is a tri-yearly publication of Women In Numismatics. The acceptance of an ad (business or classified) does not constitute approval or endorsement by WIN. WIN claims no liability for content of business or classified ads. All ads are accepted on a space limited basis.

Letters-to-the-Editor Policy

Letters-to-the-Editor are welcome from both members and non-members and must include your name, address and phone number.
Letters will be published in *WINNING WAYS* as space and publication deadlines permit and are subject to Editorial discretion. Whenever a letter is addressing a specific problem that the Board can assist in resolving, it will be forwarded to the appropriate personnel.

Feature Articles

Articles, photos and features pertaining to the numismatic industry are welcome and are subject to editorial discretion and editing.

New Publication Deadline Dates:

February 15.....April issue
June 1.....August issue
October 1st.....January issue

Mailing Address

Please address your Journal inquries and correspondence to:
Gloria E. Peters, Editor
14252 Culver Drive, A, #490
Irvine, CA 92604-0326
Phone: (949) 559-5797
Fax: (949) 559-0777
Email: gpeters409@aol.com

Patti Jagger

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Friends,

Well, this is it!! And I must admit the past four years as your President was a challenge that I really enjoyed 95% of the time. The other 5% was allocated to writing this message which became my least favorite duty, almost a small Chinese water torture. Those of you who know me best will understand I am far more vocal than literary.

I am very pleased to have the first three gentlemen on the WIN Board of Directors. Don Charters, VP of Michigan State, will be WIN's Vice President; Jerry Morgan, Scotsman Coins of St. Louis, is chair of Fund Raising. Jerry represents the Royal British Mint and the Canadian Mint nationally and is involved with fund raising for The Wolf Foundation and Christopher Reeves' Spinal Injury Foundation. Rollie Finner, Vice President of the Numismatists of Wisconsin and the Message Center Voice of Central States for many years, is the new Advertising Chairman. These new additions will give new perspectives and experience to bring us into the 21st century.

WIN has become "a force to reckon with" according to many of the dealers who support our educational efforts. Our different outreach programs offered by both our meetings and individuals who present seminars to students and scout programs are provided free of charge. The continued support of P.C.G.S., N.G.C., U.S. Coins of Houston, Tx, Rollie Finner, Jerry Morgan and Don Charters and others enable us to teach our next generation of customers and new collectors. Stop and say 'Thank You" to any of them, or all of them. They are helping to insure our industry's future for all of us too. Marlene Highfill is working with the Girl Scouts National Headquarters to establish a separate merit badge for coin collecting. We are asking each of you to write a letter supporting this effort and sending it to Marlene Highfill, Magic Empire Council, P.O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013. Ask friends and especially anyone in scouting to help with their letter too.

The 50 state quarter program has sparked interest in coins more than anything else in a very long time. Now that the banks have the new Sacajawea (that is the correct spelling) dollar in stock as well as the quarters, everyone looks at their change. I teach a small class at our local banks and more parents and teachers accompany their children with each session. Try it in your area.

Our WIN library has not been used by more than three members in the past 5 years so the board has decided to use it for door prizes at upcoming meetings. Some of the videos will be kept for educational purposes.

"Thank You" is really is not sufficient for outgoing Secretary Cindy Mohon; and (thank God) Treasurer Dorothy Baber and Editor Gloria Peters are staying. My gratitude to Carolyn Graham, Marlene Highfill, Sandy Gulde and Gayle Pike, who are retiring from our Board of Directors. Vice President Cindy Grellman will be installed at the Central States Show in Minneapolis May 6 as President and she gets a special vote of appreciation. I will continue as Parliamentarian.

All the WINning accomplishments of the past four years are shared by the Officers, members and supporters of Women In Numismatics. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! Hugs,

Patti

"Poor Itty Bitty Thang"

Rita Jene Sledz

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Constantine

Byzantine 101 and Part II

Prue Fitts

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Vacation Time?
Have You Visited Our Northern Neighbor-Canada? Prices are great--so is the Country.

Check out Travel Tips.

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Value Your Possessions?
If you are a collector or dealer you won't want to miss 'Auction Incident Averted' (page 8), or 'Dealer Rewarded by ANA' (page 21)

Pages 8 and 21

Advertisers
Please check page 21 on the rate schedule. All rates are now x 3 for a one year contract. Bottom line it is now less expensive to contract now for a one year committment. Check with Rollie Finner... WIN's Ad director.

WIN Meeting
Place: Central States, Minneapolis, MN
Date: Saturday, May 6
Speaker: Marvin Mericle
Subject: What Really Happens When You Have A Robbery
Door Prizes
Please join us-coffee and rolls served

Gloria Peters

Viewpoint

By Gloria Peters

Meet your Year 2000 Board Members:
Cindy Grellman-President; Don Charters-Vice President
Rita Jene Sledz- Secretary; Dorothy Baber-Treasurer
Gloria Peters-Editor; Lorelei Lissor-Publicity
Jerry Morgan-Fundraising; Roland Finner-Advertising
Patti (Jagger) Finner-Parliamentarian

WIN members at the Long Beach meeting voted the above slate to take WIN forward into the new Millennium. You'll notice a few changes in positions and four new board members. The installation will be held at the Central States Show in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Saturday May 6. Hopefully most or all new board members will be able to attend.

WIN's membership is approximately 120 at this time. You'll also notice there will be 3 male members on the board. Hope you can make it to the Central States meeting to meet your board members, give encouragement, and join us in fellowship. In the near future Jerry Morgan will present new and exciting suggestions on fund raising activities for the Scholarship Fund. Please join with your board and active members in their endeavor to send even more members to the ANA Summer Seminar each year.

One other change: There will only be two WIN meetings at the Long Beach shows...February and October. WIN should be able to accomplish in two meetings what has been done currently in three. Remember, no June general meeting at Long Beach. Travel expenses, time constraints, etc., make it too much of a burden for many members. The meetings are still at 8am on Saturday.

Everything else will remain about the same. Literary Award, donation to ANA for book restoration and our annual Scholarship Award(s). Your support has made these service awards possible. Keep up the good work! It's what makes the WIN organization very worthwhile for numismatics...and for us as members.

Did you enjoy Rita Jene's article and 'Rita Jene Says' in our last edition of the Journal? You won't want to miss her new article 'Itty Bitty Thang' this time either. Cindy's already fallen in love with Nova. Now she wants to know where to get one! Alas!

We also have a new writer for *Winning Ways* in this issue. Prue Fitts. Prue writes a wonderful review of Byzantine history complete with numismatic history and photos. Byzantine 101 and Part II are in this issue with more to come in the August edition. A lot of work for Prue but very interesting and informative. You won't want to miss it.

I have been talking with Ken Bressett and I'm sorry to say he will be taking a leave from writing the Bibliophile for *Winning Ways*. I'm sure many of you know, or have least have met Bert, Ken's wife. Bert has been in poor health for quite awhile and the time/energy pressure has required a slower pace coupled with other important priorities. We understand and hope Ken will rejoin us in the near future. Ken has been writing for WIN for several years and we will miss his excellent 'The Bibliophile' book reviews very much. Our thoughts and prayers are with you both.

With this announcement comes a problem for *Winning Ways*. We need and want a new book reviewer for the Journal during Ken's absence. It requires a fairly long-term commitment plus there is no pay for this job. Sounds like the worst of all alternatives, doesn't it? There is a plus involved, however, if someone does volunteer to take on this job. All books you solicit for your reviews are yours to keep with WIN's blessing. Cindy Mohon has volunteered to do the next book review, but in all honesty I know it can't last. Too many, many irons in the fire...including proof reading this Journal. Please think about it really hard. Give me a call, or fax, or Email. If you are a fast reader, succinct writer and love numismatic literature this job could be yours with our many thanks.

Patricia Davis

Tracking The Market With Pat

By Patricia Davis
Centennial Coin Galleries
Torrance, CA

Fractional Reserve Banking

In 1913 "We the people" turned over to a semi-governmental corporation of private bankers the constitutional duty and privilege of creating money. At that time, our heritage was steeped in the value of some thing. Over recorded history civilization has regarded as wealth gold and to a lesser degree silver. Since ancient Lydia, men have used little pieces of precious metal to function as a medium of exchange, much improving a strictly barter system.

When the Federal Reserve System was created, the gold exchange system remained in place to comfort the citizens and induce a feeling that the "greedy, free banking system" was being brought to a halt. The banking system was put forward as the cause of all the problems referred to as an economic cycle. It was promised that with a Federal Reserve System we would no longer have inflationary deflationary cycles, but only would have economic stability. From that time to the present, we have been led to believe that a federal reserve note is money in the historical sense. However, a federal reserve note is now backed by the full face and credit of our imaginations. As long as we all imagine the Federal Reserve Notes are money, then they will continue to function as if they were. The Federal Reserve continued to redeem their paper notes with gold for only 20 years after their formation. By that time the public had cemented their trust in the Fed performing in the same way as other historic issuers of paper gold receipts.

Then, as now, you don't cook a frog in a microwave fashion, but slowly so that no one notices the process. Emergencies bring opportunities for both good and evil. The "great crash," which never should have happened, occurred under the auspices of the Federal Reserve. President Roosevelt outlawed gold money within the United States and the Federal Reserve's printing press went on a spree.

With the Federal Reserve System, our paper money went from being a receipt for gold to a receipt for debt. When gold was called in, the Fed was free to create as much money as they deemed necessary The Federal Reserve System allowed their fellow "good ole boy" bankers to create money through Fractional Reserve Banking based on debt.

Just the first word "fractional" shuts down the thought of half of the subjects- once called citizens. So what is this fractional reserve system and how does it work? How would you like to go down to your basement every night and create the money you need to "do your thing." What this action is referred to is counterfeiting and is what the Fed does when it creates fiat money.

Under the Fractional reserve system, a bank can create money in the following way. An initial deposit is made at the bank. The bank keeps about 2% of the deposit as a reserve, then it is free to lend the other 98% to a new borrower. When the new borrower receives the loan, the money is credited to his account and becomes a new deposit. The bank holds 2% of the new deposit and lends out the other 98% to another borrower. An original deposit in a bank creates the seed money to become a "loaves and fish" miracle to the bankers. As long as debt is incurred, the bank can continue to create money out of thin air.

This fabrication of fiat money could continue indefinitely were it not for inflation. Remember what inflation is? Too much money chasing too few goods. In the recent past, our country has been the beneficiary of a deflationary market because of cheap and slave labor countries producing a plethora of goods at below the real cost of the goods produced by a nation with a higher standard of living. However, even the deflationary dip will wane when the puppet-masters start to demand their due. Their due is reflected in our trade deficit. At some point the entity that is holding the "IOUs" will want to cash in their chits for something of real value. Something that they consider an asset. We have been able to satisfy this demand by supplying to our debtors computer generated knowledge and military goods that they needed to gain more parity with the U.S. Dollars are also needed to purchase oil and gold since both of these assets are priced in U.S. dollars.

For the last few years the Federal Reserve and the fractional reserve system has created a massive amount of money that is pouring into the stock market and other financial mar-

kets. How long will our debtors be content with holding a paper asset that is being diluted at a rapid pace?

Alan Greenspan was asked by Rep. Ron Paul, if he knew what the current M3 figures were with any accuracy, and Greenspan said that he didn't know. The follow up question was: How could the Fed control what they could not measure? M3 is the most complete measure of the U.S. money supply. Greenspan has been sending us warnings about the danger our economy is facing. Quite clever of Chairman Greenspan since he is the one that has increased the money supply by unprecedented amounts. During the last inflationary period, I can remember how daily on the financial channels M3 was the hot topic along with the velocity of money. Now most people don't even know what M3 is, but would buy shares in it if it were M3.com ! Anyway, M3 shows that week after week, the Fed has been creating tens of billions of new dollars. This high-powered money is put into the banking system by what is known as a "coupon pass." But the Fed did not stop with printing money. They also loaned money to the banks, at under market rates. The most money ever! Now remember what happens with our fractional reserve banking. The bankers use this seed money and multiply it. The net result is that over $1 trillion has been poured into the U.S. economy. Much of the Fed's easy money loans went to Wall Street, investment firms and even the trading desks of traditional banks. The higher cost of oil might be an indication that since oil is priced in dollars, the perceived value of the dollar is going down in oil producing countries, and it takes more dollars to buy the oil.

Now why do you think Greenspan is worried about inflation? Do you think that we are going to see too much money chasing too few goods when he starts wringing out the excess in the stock market? Will the world see this as a weakness and start cashing in the U.S. dollar to buy something of lasting value when the cash cow stock market stops gushing milk? The Fed is going to try to deflate the bubble market slowly and hopefully look like a hero if all things land softly.

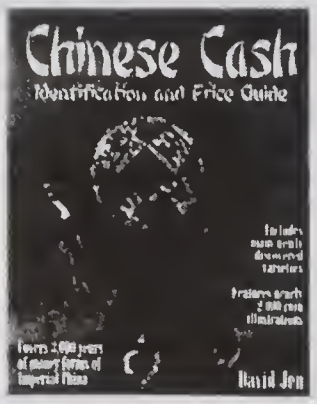
So as to the stock market - Duh! Look for oil and interest rates to keep rising and don't be too surprised if we again see brokerage firms setting up rare coin funds. Remember what happened to the rare coin market after the 1987 downturn? *deja vu baby*!

God Bless you and yours

Pat

News Release-Krause Publications

***Chinese Cash* by David Jen** covers 3 000 years of Imperial Chinese money forms From the cowrie shells the Chinese first used as money to the coins issued by the last ruling; emperor, the new book *Chinese Cash* provides a comprehensive view of Imperial Chinese currency.



Covering more than 3,000 years of numismatic history, this volume, illustrates and values in multiple condition grades a variety of monetary forms issued in Imperial China. Nearly 2,000 coins are described and illustrated within the book's 352 pages.

The complicated history of this ancient nation is revealed through author David Jen's study of the coins issued by every major ruler from the Xia Dynasty of 2200 B.C. to the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911. His capsule histories and anecdotes offer rare insight into Chinese culture and politics.

Chinese Cash does not limit itself to the history and production of Imperial coinage, it includes rebel coinage and tokens from many of the dynastic eras.

"Rebel coins occupy an important seat in Chinese numismatic history," said Jen, a respected numismatic scholar in the United States and Asia. "Circulated in small areas and in small amounts, they exist in very limited numbers, hence their popularity with collectors."

Though some of the rarer issues of Chinese coins are valued into the thousands of dollars, the availability, affordability and beauty of the lion's share of these coins make this area of numismatics ideal for novice collectors. The book's scope and attention to detail answer the catalog needs of the advanced collector.

Jen offers readers expert advice on assessing coins and identifying reproductions and fakes. He also provides a comprehensive descriptions to distinguishing rare and valuable variants from the more common coins. His chapter devoted to varieties and variants includes spade, knife, iron and round coins among many others.

Collectors will also find coverage of seed coins and patterns, and a chronology of Chinese dynasties and emperors.

The *Chinese Cash* can be purchased from coin shops, major bookstores or directly from the publisher for $42.95 (soft cover, ISBN 0-87341-859-X) plus $3.25 shipping for the first book and $2 shipping for each additional book. Wisconsin residents, please 5.5% sales tax. Illinois residents, add 6.25%. Iowa and Pennsylvania residents, add 6%. California residents, add 7.25%. Virginia residents, add, 4.5%.Tennessee residents, add 8.25%. Washington residents, add 8.2%.

To order by mail, write Krause Publications, Book Department PRMM, 700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990-0001. Charge-card customers can order toll-free: (800) 258-0929, Dept. PRMM. The book can also be purchased through the Krause Publications Web site at http://www.krause.com. A free copy of the Krause Publications catalog of books and magazines may be obtained by calling (800) 258-0929, Dept. PRMM, or it can be viewed by visiting www.krause.com on the Internet.

Cindy Mohon

From the Secretary's Desk

WIN General Meeting Notes for FUN Show
Saturday January 8, 2000
Orlando, FL

Refreshments were provided by FUN and were greatly appreciated.

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 AM by President Patti Jagger. The minutes were published in *Winning Ways* and had been sent to members earlier. Corrections and/or additions were requested. None were put forth. Minutes stand approved as published.

The Treasurer's Report was read. The Editor's report was requested. **Gloria Peters** indicated that it was a great deal easier now that the Journal will be published only 3 times a year. That last issue of the year had been a killer. She indicated that we have a new writer who will be contributing regularly to *Winning Ways*—Rita Jene Sledz. Publicity Chairperson was not present to give a report.

Under new business,Patti Jagger indicated that **Roland Finner**, a new member, has accepted the responsibility for Advertising Chairperson and has assumed that role at this time. **H. Robert Campbell**, President of the ANA Board of Governors, was present. He thanked WIN for the contribution to the ANA Library for the book restoration and preservation. He indicated that the ANA's library has some extremely valuable and irreplaceable material. The preservation of these materials is an exacting and expensive science. He indicated that a specially secured, environmentally controlled room is necessary. Apparently a complete encyclopedia of Chinese coins was recently appraised at a value of a million dollars. Mr. Campbell indicated that the contributions from WIN has raised the numismatic consciousness about this need.

Mr. Campbell also brought to the WIN meeting a first announcement from the ANA Board of Governors that **Ed Rochette** has accepted the continuing responsibility of Executive Director for ANA until July 2001. This will continue to assure ANA's stability.

The last item of business at the meeting was the drawing of the scholarship winner. WIN's fundraising was sufficient that one member will be able to attend the Summer Seminar travel and tuition paid this year. The ANA Summer Seminar will have two one-week sessions this year. There were 8 entries in the scholarship drawing this year: **Robert Dunfield**; **Christine Dunfield**; **Judith Kagan**; **Rita Jene Sledz**; **Peggy Blackburn**; **Sondra Beymer**; **Karen Jach**, and **Patti Jagger**. The winner was drawn by **Myrna Lighterman** and it was **Patti Jagger**. The backup person was Christine Dunfield. Patti Jagger was pleased to confirm her plans for the seminar and said thanks to the membership for this opportunity.

Bob Hurst, featured speaker at the WIN Saturday morning meeting.

The donation drawing was done and **Sal Germano's** name was drawn.

Our speaker **Bob Hurst**, the General Chairman of the FUN Show, was introduced as our speaker. He talked about the amount of creativity and special efforts that the FUN board applied in 1999 to make the FUN 2000 a very special and memorable show. Bob discussed the medals commemorating the convention and the creative process that went into the set. Bob has been an ancients collector for many years. The set of four type of commemorative medals was drawn from his experience. He had 20 prototypes made and serial numbered those sets to provide to the Board members. Once he assured them that the medals could be done well within the budget they were approved. There were limited number of sets and a set number of one type of finish were made to give away at convention. The entrance boards were also a major creative endeavor with drawings of the Mint faded into the background of the coin illustrations. Much was done to make the Year 2000 a very special show for FUN.

The drawings for the multiple door prizes were done. WIN thanks all of its sponsors who help make our meetings fun. **Lorelei Lissor** won the FUN special medal set. **Bob Hurst** won the pen. **Ed Arrich** won the Millennium Set. **Myrna Lighterman** won the Christmas Round. **Debbie Williams, Bob Grellman, Nancy Wilson, Karen Peterson, John Wilson, Carrie Best, Bob Campbell** and **Jim Best** all each won a silver round. **Patti Jagger** won a Princess Diana commemorative round.

Sincerely,
Cindy Mohon
Secretary

Continued on page 15

Please send your change of address to:
Rita Jene Sledz, Secretary
5175 Gloria
Wayne, MI 48784
734-721-4991

'Poor Itty Bitty Thang'

By Rita Jene Sledz

No doubt you are all anxiously awaiting my second article and although it doesn't compare with my experience in Chicago, I do hope you will find it entertaining and interesting.

In January of this year I attended the Florida United Numismatic Show in Orlando as a volunteer. My fiancee, Don Charters, also a volunteer, and I decided to drive, allowing me to transport more "stuff" back.

My friend Debbie hitched a ride down to Brooksville, Florida to be with her sister and so we started out on New Year's Day, each of us looking forward to seeing the big yellow happy smiley face in the sky. Well, Debbie has an African Pigmy hedgehog named Nova weighing in at one pound one ounce. Deb carries her in a pink sheepskin lined pouch and literally takes her wherever she goes. We stopped overnight at a motel in Georgia for a good nights sleep so that we could drive

Nova, the 13oz pigmy hedgehog

right on through the next day bright eyed and alert. At about midnight, Nova crawled under the air conditioner and fell into a five inch drop which we didn't detect while scanning the room for possible hiding places. Nova was terrified so she rolled up into a tight ball (which is what they do) extended her quills (Unlike a porcupine they are hollow quills) so we couldn't get her out, Deb laid on the floor all night with her hand over the little one trying to keep her warm since the air conditioner was set in cement. The night clerk, who was female, said we'd have to wait until 8:00 A.M. for a maintenance man to help. I hunted down a restaurant and brought back hot chocolate for Deb..I relieved Deb..Deb relieved herself ... and Nova curled into a tighter ball realizing the hand over her was not her "mom." At 8:00 A.M. the maintenance man arrived, looked over the situation..tried to figure what the heck was under there and certainly was worried. Carefully the AC. was lifted out but it could easily have slipped crushing poor Nova. All went well and when Nova was brought up and out, her tiny nose and all her quills were draped in strands of dust and globs of dirt. When we took her to meet the front desk clerk, the clerk stammered "Goodness gracious that itty bitty thang ... I was wonderin how a hog coulda fell inna great big old air conditioner."

The remainder of the trip went smoothly and at long last we arrived at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando amid the hustle and bustle of last minute preparations for the show. The entrance arch to the bourse floor was designed by bourse chairman Bob Hurst and it depicted various methods of striking coins from day one to the present. I was going to try buying one of the awesome panels to bring home but they were pretty big and would never have fit in with all the "stuff" I brought back.

I attended the Hobo Nickel Society auction and to my utter delight purchased two nickels. They aren't gems, but I am absolutely thrilled with them and am very proud to show them off, I am surprised at how many people are not familiar with the nickels and the stories behind them.

Each morning at 10:00 A.M. The U.S. Mint handed out a limited number of Massachusetts quarters and the line was always long. Don and I stood in line the first morning and moved briskly along but the man right before us got the last quarter for the day. Heh heh::.' Yes, we did go back the following day and got a couple.

Across the street from the center was the Peabody Hotel and

there's a big neon duck emblem at the top of the building. SSoooooooooo naturally I had to investigate. In the lobby of the hotel, five ducks leisurely paddle in a marble fountain and late in the afternoon a "Duckmaster" rolls out a long red

carpet from the l'Dux" elevator to the fountain, unfolds red carpeted stairs, taps his duck headed cane, the piped in marching band music ('The King Cotton March' Ed.) begins and out they come... waddling..glancing to and fro ... giving a proud flap of wings and into the elevator they march. The next morning the Duckmaster (who by this time I made friends with) invited me to take part in escorting the ducks from the 4th floor (That's where the Duck Palace is) to the elevator and down to the lobby. You know, these ducks walk to the rear of the elevator, line up and face forward for the ride down. Out we marched along the red carpet as the rolling drums beat and regal trumpets blared away. Young kids ... old kids and even in between kids lined the walkway with flashing cameras and smiles of admiration...(I swear those ducks smile) It really was something. I was presented with an official "Honorary Duckmaster" certificate signed by J.J. Mallard and stamped with his web footed print. In gratitude, I presented the Duckmaster with souvenir coins from the FUN show and a pin from the Australian Mint. Surprise of surprises, the man I gave my camera to on the 4th floor to have him take pictures) was part owner of the hotel..naturally he got coins and a pin too.

Back at the show, we got a box of Cheerios at the ANA table but the Sacagawea wasn't in it. We did get a 2000 Lincoln cent as you probably did. On January 27th a bulk food chain store in the area gave them out in change so we managed to get some.

Our trip back North was fun since we stopped at a pecan farm and I bought jalapeno pecans, spiced pecans, pecan rolls, regular pecans and a bunch of other goodies. Our next trip out as volunteers will be for the ANA National Money Show in Ft. Lauderdale held on March 2-5, Oh what a wonderful world of numismatics it is and oh how I do enjoy it and all of you.

Until you hear from me once more, be kind to each other.

Rita Jene Sledz

Editor: I'm beginning to believe the 'volunteers' have most of the fun! Poor little 'itty bitty thang.' Now I'm waiting to see the 'official duckmaster certificate' with J.J. Mallard's signature.

* * *

Letter From Judith Kagin

Auction Incident Averted

December 10, 1999

A negative incident with a positive outcome:

We are all so concerned with security while the show is open to the public, that we tend to get a bit lax when we think we are among just "friends."

During the February Paper Money show being held in Chicago, I almost had my purse stolen!

During the auction, I had placed my purse beneath my chair and was all consumed with the auction activity. A collector, Nicholas A. Rich, Jr., watched as the man behind my chair began slumping slowly down in his chair. The man was trying to angle his foot in order to hook the strap of my purse, thereby pulling it towards him. He had just begun to hook my purse when Nicholas confronted him. The man quickly rose from his chair and made a very hasty exit. Apparently, he had an accomplice in the room, as that man immediately ran out with him.

Had it not been for Nicholas, that show could have been a great disaster. My gratitude to Nicholas. Let's all continue to watch out for one another.

I have enclosed a letter I sent to Our PCDA secretary telling him about the story. I do not think Nicholas was ever publicly thanked.
Judy Kagin

Editor Note: Good advice Judy. Thanks for the letter, and the warning.

March 9, 1999
James Simek PCDA Secretary
P.O. Box 7157 Westchester, IL 60154

Dear Jim, I wanted to tell you "officially" about Nicholas A. Rich Jr.

During the auction in Chicago, on February 20, 1999, Mr. Rich noticed a suspicious looking young man stretch his foot underneath my chair, and hook my purse with his foot. He had begun to drag my purse toward him, when Mr. Rich confronted the man. He hurriedly rose, a friend of his came from the back of the room, and the two of them left the room and did not re-appear.

I would like PCDA to officially thank Mr. Rich in the next newsletter. I have enclosed a copy of his card for your convenience.
Thanks, Jim.
Sincerely Judy Kagin

BYZANTINE 101

By Prue Fitts

The fall of the Roman Empire in 475 AD is spoken of as a singular event as if Rome suddenly collapsed like a souffle and Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire rose immediately from its ashes like the mythical phoenix. Rather, it was power and focus flowing from the West to the East over a long period of time. "Byzantine" is a relatively recent modern designation dating from the last Century and derived from the city of Byzantion (later Constantinople).

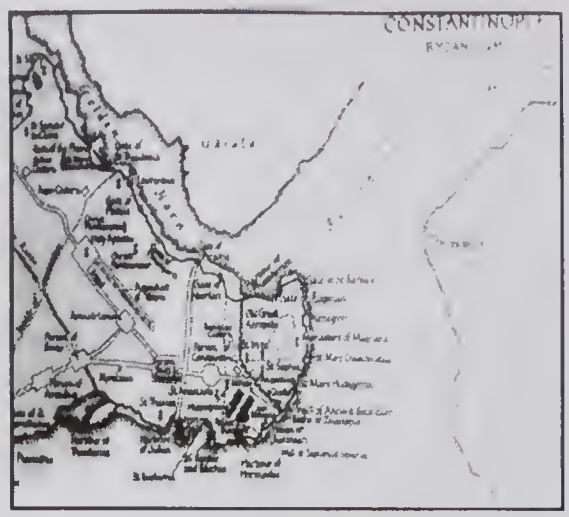
The stage for Byzantine history and its coinage was set at the beginning of the 4th Century. Heavy Roman Taxation stressed the Mediterranean economy and the Empire had been divided into West and East Sectors with an Emperor in each.[1] Into the Roman world, was born **Constantine**[2] in Naissus, a province now known as Yugoslavia. His father, nicknamed "Chlorus the Pale," was "Caesar"[3] in charge of maintaining Rome's authority in Britain. Trained in the court of Diocletian[4], Constantine was proclaimed "Augustus" after the death of his father in 306. A popular leader, he waited a decade to challenge the authority of his brother-in-law, another "Augustus." An unsubstantiated legend states that he saw a sign in the sky with the inscription "By this sign, you will conquer." The sign was the Chi (X) Rho (R) for the first two letters in Christ's name. Constantine put this insignia on the shields of his soldiers and did indeed conquer as Maxentius' troops fell literally into the river when the Milvian Bridge collapsed; thus, he became master of Europe from the Atlantic to the Adriatic. This Christian symbol assumed a significant place on Byzantine coinage as well as in their ceremonies as it becomes the "labarum."

Constantine

X R

As Christians had only recently been permitted to live their faith unprosecuted, his conversion to Christianity in a time and place where paganism named a god for every hour, event and even a sneeze was of profound significance.[5]

Equally momentous was Constantine's decision to move his capital from Rome whose borders were increasing threatened. Beset with economic and sanitation problems, its population abandoned the city to escape rampant malaria. An opportunity to build a Christian Capital with an Eastern orientation in a time when his elitist society would be in closer touch with the great academic traditions in Alexandria and Antioch was too tempting to ignore.



Constantinopolis [6]

Byzantion was prime real estate. A naturally defensible site, it would serve the Empire well until late in its history. The only vulnerable side (northern) would eventually be fortified by thirteen miles of walls guarded by 50 gates. The peninsula itself commanded the entrance to both the Black Sea and the Mediterranean, and was protected by sheer cliffs. Economically, it controlled the major caravan routes from India, Persia and China.

Constantine's plans for his city were ambitious. 40,000 Goth soldiers toiled for a year and a half and enough was finished, as commanded, for his silver jubilee in 330. Dedicated on May 11th, a Monday, the population, estimated at 200,000, reveled for 40 days in the renamed city of Constantinopolis.[6] Large silver coins were struck for the occasion. His capital was twin to Rome; it had the same municipal system with 14 districts. There was a Senate house [7]; a Hippodrome with labyrinths of offices, apartment and baths and arenas for chariot races and wild animal fights for public entertainment. An oval marble Forum displayed a 20 foot tall plinth in the center containing a polyglot collection of relics including baskets with the leftovers from Jesus' feeding of the multitudes. A Law Court with a stele proclaimed this to be the New Rome and, of course, there was a mammoth Palace. The Church of St. Eirene was the first great Christian Church to be built here.

This, then, was the stage on which the Byzantine Empire played out its fascinating, colorful and frequently violent history. Though the citizenry spoke Greek, the official court language was Latin, and they considered themselves to be Romans. There were already flourishing mints here, in Antioch and in Thessalonika. The coinage of the time was late Roman. Constantine introduced the *solidus* whose full weight of gold was 24 carats and struck at 72 to the pound; *aureus* was struck at 60 to the pound. In fractional form[8] (the *semisses* was one

[1] *Timeline*: Else where in the world, Neo Taoism was developing and the earliest Christian monastic orders were being established in Egypt; Runes in Germanic script were touted as mind puzzles and magical charms; much of Northern India had been united under Chandra Gupta; the Mayans, the first to use a symbol for zero based their arithmetic calculations on the number 20.

[2] Considered by many to be one of the four greatest men in history; the others being Jesus, Buddha and Mohammed.

[3] The title "Caesar" was conferred on those who were second in command to "Augustus," this being equivalent to "Emperor."

[4] Diocletian, ruler from 284-305, ordered all books written about the fashioning of gold silver and copper burned, in an effort to prevent counterfeiting.

[5] Part of the credit certainly belongs as well to his mother, Helen. An Innkeeper's daughter, and perhaps something more comforting to travelers, she was badly treated by Chlorus and spent her last years on a successful pilgrimage to find the True Cross. This was displayed in her son's new city. For ther continued Christian efforts, she was awarded sainthood.

[6] Polis meaning city: therefore, city of Constantine.

[7] Functionally in concert with the one in Rome.

[8] Discontinued circa 775.

half the *solidus* and the *tremissis* was one-third) it remained as coinage through the more than 800 years of existence of the Empire. The silver *miliarense* was first struck during his reign but was not a common denomination until a later Constantine (V) introduced the type with a cross on three steps. The reign of **Anastasius (491-518)** is generally considered as the start of Byzantine coinage. An older man and unlikely candidate for Emperor as he was not of royal blood, his appointment was ensured when he married the widow of the previous Emperor. His most important contributions were a stunning increase to the treasury[9] and the introduction of a series of low denomination bronze coins in 498. The series consisted of the 40 nummi (M= follis); the 20 nummi (K= half follis); the 10 nummi (I = decanummium); the 5 nummi (e =pentanummium) and the nummus (A). The obverse remained the same with the profile portraiture and the inscription but the reverse used a Greek letter to indicate the value in nummi.

Anastasius

At this time, many Roman mints had ceased operating except at Constantinople, Thessalonica and Nicomedia. Antioch was revitalized with minting of the new bronze which was initially struck on the "small module" standard - the follis was about 23-27 millimeters. However, for the last six years of his reign, the size was increased by 10 mm.

His successor, **Justin the first (518-27)** was an illiterate peasant, a career military man[10] who was clever enough to insinuate enough support in the Senate for his election. Generally overshadowed by the later sole reign of his nephew, **Justinian**, he changed the reverse of the solidus from the traditional female Victory to a male Angel in 519. [photo #6] The figure kept the same accouterments, i.e., the long staff with Chi Rho; or held a wreath or a globus crucifer. The globe, the traditional representation of the celestial sphere, now carried a cross above it to show the second role of the Emperor as head of Church as well.

Photo #6

Justinian the Great (527-565) dominated the 6th Century. His wife, Theodora [photo #7] had beauty, grace and wit and an iron will. Never mind that she also had a past. It was she who convinced the Emperor to stand firm as he contemplated fleeing his burnt-out city in 532 when factions, normally warring against each other, joined to call for his ouster. "Everyman who is born must die...if you wish to save your skin, you will have no difficulty in doing so... but as for me, I stand by the ancient saying, the purple is the noblest winding sheet," [11] she said. He stayed.

Theodora, wife of Justinian the Great (7)

He rebuilt his decimated city, adding the largest Christian church in the world, the St. Sophia. Designed by Antemius, a Greek engineer and his colleague, Isador, it remains to this day, one of the greatest structures in the world, with a dome of 107 feet in diameter, with 40 windows, soaring 160 feet above ground level.[12] He codified the law and established a silkworm industry in Constantinople, Antioch and Beirut.

Church of St. Eirene

During Justinian's reign, the 33 nummi (^) 30 nummi(^); the 6 nummi (S) and the 3 nummi ( ) were being struck at the new mint at Alexandria. The 12 nummi [dodecanummium (1B)] became standard coin of this Egyptian mint though only struck there. Justinian added the regnal year of the emperor as part of the design, [photo #9]. This remained the pattern on copper for the next three Centuries. In 538/9, he introduced the 3/4 facing bust on the obverse which became synonymous with "Byzantine" posture.

Photo #9

As other Emperors before and after him, Justinian

[9] He increased the treasury in excess of 300,000 pounds, an amount which permitted Justinian to recapture many Roman lands in the next century

[10] A fairly common combination in achieving the throne.

[11] *History of the War, I, xxiv*, 33-7 by Procopius. This historian-diarist from whom we get much of our Byzantine history, loathed Theodora but dutifully reported rallying speech.

[12] This modern photo shows the minarets added to the church to transform it into a mosque, a conversion which saved this architectural treasure.

considered his duty to restore the Roman Empire to its original second century boundaries and using the vast treasury left by Anastasius, he increased the Empire's boundaries to Spain on the West, reclaiming much of Italy, and North Africa to the South. The Empire would never again be so extensive.

The pay for a soldier during this time was 3 *solidii*, paid every three years. Using $11,000 as a base point, Chris Connell has estimated that each *solidus* was worth the equivalent of $3,600 today. One *solidus* = 180 folli = 7,200 nummi. Therefore, 1 nummi was worth about 50 cents.

Photo #10

The Roman profile bust continued to be used into the 7th Century. Some issues from the Antioch (Theopolis) mint show Justinian enthroned, facing. In the time of his successor, **Justin II (565-578)** double and triple obverse figures would be common in the 7th century.[13] [photo #10] Silver was being produced at the new mint at Ravenna, in great quantities and with several reverse types though it remained rare in Constantinople.

Forced into a losing war against the Avars in Dalmatia and stressed by an empty treasury, Justin's mind collapsed. On good days, he rode in a cart around the palace; on the bad, he bit those who had misfortune to be guarding him. Sophia, convinced him to promote **Tiberius**, a General, to assist. In the 9 short days in 578 when they ruled jointly, there were actually 2 issues: a *solidus* and a *light weight solidus*, each with the two faces with a cross between their heads and an angel on the reverse both of which are extremely rare.

Tiberius II added Constantine to his name [photo #11] and was a popular ruler who strengthened the Army. He produced a huge one pound medallion to send to the King of the Franks, made of gold of which none are known to survive. He introduced a cross potent on four steps on the *solidus* [photo #11] and he changed the reverse of the *semissis* and the *tremessis* to a cross potent with or without a circle beneath, sometimes composed of dots. He dated his coins from the time of his appointment as Caesar, rather than Augustus.

Maurice Tiberius' (582-62) succession was ensured when he married Tiberius' daughter. His coinage reverted to the angel image on his *solidii* and a New Victory advancing on the reverse on the *tremisses*. His coins are distinguished by their very Roman symbols of authority: the Counselor robe and scepter and the mappa, a napkin-like piece of cloth used to signal the start of the public games. Silver ceremonial pieces were issued at the same time as the regular silver currency up to the early 8th C.

Photo #11

Theodosius was the first son born to a reigning emperor in two centuries and there was much rejoicing in the kingdom. He jointly reigned with his father from 590 to 602 and his portrait appeared on the follis and the ½ follis with his father and mother Constantia on the obverse. There are rare gold and silver coins from this period, too. One silver shows him on the obverse with the legend, **AMENITAS DEI**, translated as "the delight of God," surely a reference to his youthful appearance.

Theodosius

Into this seemingly happy family picture, entered **Phocas**, one of the emperors who gave the noun Byzantine new meaning in cruelty and violence.

End of part one

Author's Note: I would like to acknowledge Chris Connell with profound thanks for his advice and his willingness to proof-read my article(s). Any remaining errors are mine alone. All photographs are mine and all coins except those I photographed from catalogues are mine. The title reflects more my journey in the Byzantine world than the readers.

Editor Note: Part two starts on page 12. Part 3, and possibly part 4 will be in the next (August) issue.

Please Join Us At Our WIN Meeting

Saturday May 6 at the CSNS Show
8 am

Marvin Mericle is our featured speaker

Subject: What REALLY Happens When You Have A Robbery

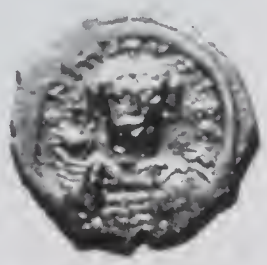
Questions Welcome

[13] Justin and his wife Sophia on the obverse; the reverse showing the follis was minted at Nikomedia in the tenth year of the reign.

BYZANTINE Part II

By Prue Fitts

Facing constant money deficits, **Maurice's (582-602)** thriftiness led to political blindness such that he refused to ransom 12,000 prisoners held by the Avars, which led to their subsequent death. His popularity from his superlative Persian campaigns vanished as he cut rations to his Army and refused to let them return home for their customary winter respite. Deprived of their usual doles, the citizenry refused to follow his appointed commander and brother, Peter. Instead, they raised as their hero, a physically disfigured (and later to be discovered, psychologically damaged) colleague, one Phocas.



Maurice Tiberius

Initially, an apparent "reluctant bridegroom," Phocas accepted the position after Maurice and his family fled to Nicomedia and the only other possible candidate besides the young Theodosius was not acceptable. In an uncharacteristic manner, he showered coins on his subjects as he rode to his coronation, investing his wife Leontia with the title of Augusta.

Phocas (602-610) is credited with the first real portraiture on coins but fortunately, it does not give us a realistic picture of how he was reputed to look: grotesque, cruel and - gasp, a redhead. His physical appearance was so distorted that contemporary accounts called him a centaur. His eyebrows formed one bristly scowl, and his face was twisted by a hideous scar which reddened when he was angry - a frequent occurrence. He was even more wicked than his appearance. Not unexpectedly, one of his first dicta was to slaughter the existing royal family and his short reign was one of unsurpassed terror. He introduced torture and mutilation to a civilization which had not known these horrors. Blindings and mutilations were common.

Phocas

When the Empire was most threatened, rather than rally his people in a common danger, Phocas chose to alienate the very ones who were the front line against the Persians, the Jews in Antioch. They joined in revolt against him and plots to eliminate Phocas fairly collided. As he descended further and further into paranoia, deliverance for the Empire came in the form of Heraclius, exarch of Carthage, formerly a General under Maurice two decades earlier.

In the two years, it took Heraclius and his son to prevail (called the **Revolt of the Heraclii** as the son was another "Heraclius"), Carthage, Alexandria, Alexandretta and Cyprus actually issued coins: the *solidus* with both father and son wearing consular robes; *half siliqua* and fractions of the follis. Usually portrayed bareheaded, there is one type where they are crowned and wear the pendilla, earring-like pieces which dangle over the ears.

Heraclius the younger, receiving support everywhere he landed, sailed his Navy into the Golden Horn in 610. A captured Phocas was brought to him and when asked if this was how he had governed, taunted "Will you do any better?" Phocas was dispatched in a Phocas manner.[1] Coins of the long reign of **Heraclius (610-641)**[2] show wonderful family portraits and it is possible to see his sons growing up on them. Initially, the eldest son Heraclius Constantine, appeared with him, smaller and beardless[3] and later they are joined by another son/half brother, Heraclonas, smaller while Heraclius Constantine has grown some (Photo #4). Biding his time, and restoring his shredded Empire, Heraclius (pere) waited a full eight years before waging war to restore his property lines. He restructured the whole system of army enrollment, using native sons rather than recruiting mercenaries, and taxed and borrowed monies for the first time from the Church.

Heraclius and Heraclius Constantine[3]

A series of wars ensued which kept the father busy, and absent with his appointed deputies, the Patriarch Sergius and the Patrician Bonus, left to defend Constantinople from the Avars and Huns and others. The Patriarchs patrolled the great length of the city walls raising an icon of the Virgin aloft.

Heraclonas, photo #4

The first silver to be struck in large quantities was the *hexagram*. Equivalent to the *double milaresion*, it only lasted a few decades. In 628, Heraclius finally toppled the mighty Chosroes and crushed the Persian Empire. His triumphal entry into the capital was stalled only until the True Cross, captured by the Persians was found and could preside at the Thanksgiving Mass. It was to be the height of his reign. Greek became the official language and it is at this point that "Romaion" may truly be used to designate the Eastern Romans.

In the twelve succeeding years, Jerusalem fell to Muslim control and the troops that Heraclius had raised in 636 were annihilated. He became increasingly depressed, while at home, Martina[4] plotted unsuccessfully to put her own son, Heraclonas, in solo position. In 638, the two brothers with a common

Martina

[1] He was chopped up to feed the dogs.

[2] Time line: *this period coincides with the beginning of the Muslim era which started with Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina in 622. His ideas unified the diverse Arab tribes and traders.*

[3] Photo courtesy of Harlan J. Berk in *Roman Gold Coins of the Medieval World 383-1453.*

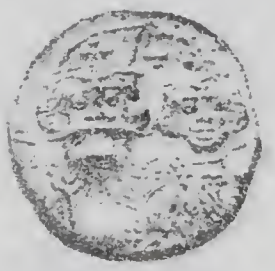
[4] By his second wife who was also his niece, Martina, a scandal in religious circles.

father, became co-rulers from that date on.

When Heraclius died, chaos ensued. As senior Augustus, **Heraclius Constantine** issued *solidii* from the Mints of Constantinople and Ravenna for a scant four months before his death in 641. These rare issues show him, beardless in a plumed hat and chlamys, holding a globus cruciger. In chronic ill heath, the timing of his death, nevertheless, was suspicious and it was said he fled to Chalcedon to protect his eldest son, Constans II for the succession. Indeed, that summer, **Constans II** was crowned Emperor.

Meanwhile, **Heraclonas** at 15, had been named senior Augustus in Constantinople. There are coins attributed to him that may belong to his successor (and nephew) Constans II. After a short seven months, he and his mother were exiled to Rhodes where he, to ensure no further claims to the throne, had his nose slit.[5]

Eleven-year old **Constans II (641-668)** had a reign plagued by wars with the Arabs and the disastrous economic loss of Egypt in 642. The Muslim appetite for conquering was insatiable and they inhaled Carthage as they looked to Rhodes[6] and other islands. Constans appeared on his coins with his eldest son, Constantine IV on the obverse and his younger sons, (another) Heraclius and Tiberius on the reverse. He ordered the murder of his brother to avoid sharing his throne and moved his administration to Syracuse in Sicily. A disgruntled servant, felled him while bathing, with a soap dish, presumably, marble. It was during this century, that only the *folles* and *decanummium* remained for the lower denominations and their weight and size were wildly disparate. Copper coinage was the most wretched of the Byzantine series and was counterfeited in great numbers by the Arabs.



Constantine IV

Heraclius and Tiberius

Constans's eldest son, **Constantine IV, (668-685)** now succeeded at the age of 18. He had remained in Constantinople and profited from the lessons of succession. When approached with the proposition of sharing the throne with his two brothers, he not only mutilated them, but murdered the proponents of the proposed tripartite rule. His city was under relentless siege from the Arabs from 674-78, but held, proving again the foresightedness of the first Constantine in choosing the site. For the first time, enemy ships met the famous "Greek fire."[7] He tried, unsuccessfully, to return his coins to the standards of the previous century with uniform size and weight. This was the last time that the *double milaresion* would be issued in large numbers.

Constantine IV

For the first time, enemy ships met the famous "Greek Fire" [7]

His son, **Justinian II (685-695)** was the last emperor of the Heraclian line. He ascended the throne when he was 16 and ruled 10 years initially. The first representation of Christ appeared on the obverse of gold denominations with the inscription Jesus Christ, King of Kings. He placed himself on the reverse with the inscription, Justinian, Servant of Christ Much of Justinian's attention was on the Balkan unrest, and his unsuccessful attempt to force his doctrine on the Roman church. He was overthrown by Leontius and maimed in the traditional nose and tongue slitting and exiled to Cherson.

Justinian, Servant of Christ [8]

For the next quarter of a-century, the throne was tossed back and forth like a hot potato for short periods of time, as internal affairs kept the Emperors from taking proper care of the Arab threat. **Leontius (695-698)** lost Carthage [again]; the coinage of **Tiberius III (698-705)** was typified by a military spear but he could not stop further invasion until the Arabs reached the Atlantic coast. Amazingly, **Justinian II** returned, now called **Rhinotmetes**[9] **(705-711** second reign). He was so consumed with revenge that he ignored further external dangers. A second and permanent overthrow by General Bardanes. **Philippicus (711-713)** was short and undistinguished. It was followed by a brief reign of **Anastasius II, Artemius (713-715)**. While preparing his defense of Constantinople with a surprise attack against the Muslim armada, he, too was overthrown and a mere tax-official, **Theodosius III of Adramytium (715-717)** was forced at sword point to be crowned. He abdicated as soon as he possibly could and was succeeded by Leo. All issued coinage and all are scarce and expensive.

[5] The famed Colossus, one hundred feet high and made of bronze to reflect its image of the sun god, had only survived its first century upright. After 9 centuries of lying prone following an earthquake, it was broken up for scrap. 900 camels were used to remove it.

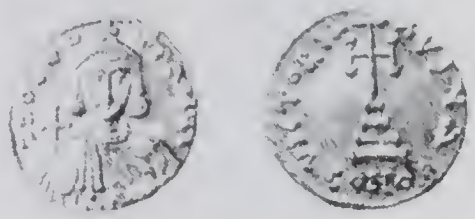
[6] Strips of tow were saturated with inflammable pitches and nitre and lighted. They were then thrown by means of catapults or sprayed in siphons. The flaming liquid not only destroyed any craft it landed upon, but since it was an oil, skimmed the surface of the ocean, causing secondary fires.

[8] Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk.

[9] Literally "slit nosed" Reportedly, his nose was restored. In any case, for formal occasions, he wore a false nose of gold.

[10] Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk.

Leo III, the Isaurian, (717-741) [10] another peasant, was a powerful leader and generated another powerful dynasty. His immediate order of business was to face the anticipated attack on his city and he is credited with saving Europe by crushing the Muslim attack. But he is perhaps best known for the Great Iconoclastic Controversy. The condensed version of this artistically devastating period is that religious images were forbidden by law because it was believed that the image was being worshiped rather than the holy subject it represented. The Church and the populations were sincerely divided over this issue as over the next century, thousands of icons and pictorial images were destroyed. A few spirited off to far away monasteries survived but the destruction was massive. The large Christ figure on the Chalke Gate built by Justinian the Great after the devastation of his city in 532, was removed first. Leo, however, underestimated the public backlash this caused, and backed off from public destruction for a decade. Coins, naturally, could no longer show representations of Christ. He introduced the *milaresion*, a new silver with a cross potent on the obverse with an inscription of four or five lines on the reverse - usually abbreviated in order to fit the space. It was no longer necessary to show a mint mark on gold as Constantinople was the only mint issuing it at this time. Multiple family portraiture became important for a number of reasons on coins, the most significant of which was the visual reminder of the legitimate Imperial line of succession.[11] It would become traditional to put the living Emperor on the obverse and the dead one(s) on the reverse, another strong visual connection. His son, **Constantine V**, crowned co-emperor by his father in 720, was forced to flee by his family's old nemesis, **Artavasdus**, who was also his brother-in-law. Appointed to the position of Strategys by Anastasius II, **Artavasdus**, overtook Constantinople and elevated his own son Nicephorus, as co-emperor. They appear together on coinage. He started to restore iconography but in a scant year was overthrown by the successful return of **Constantine V**.



Leo III, the Isaurian

Constantine V (741-775) [12] reverted to the Iconoclast policy of his father. He had considerable military ability in a time when it was sorely needed. Taking advantage of Arab internal disorder, he won considerable land back and trounced the Bulgarian threat in 763. He continued his father's harsh pursuit of iconodoles (believers in the restoration of icons) and died with his boots on, a rare experience for an Emperor.

His son **Leo IV (775-780), the Khazar,**[13] had been co-emperor for twenty-five years.

Leo IV; Constantine VI
rev. Leo III; Constantine V

Photo 14

He may be best known for his marriage to Irene, a beauty from Athens. Dying prematurely, no unusual happenstance for a Byzantine Emperor, his wife assumed the regency on behalf of their son, another Constantine. As co-regent, she issued a *solidus* with the two of them cozily on the obverse and the ancestor dead line, Leo III, Constantine V and Leo IV on the reverse, [14] all seated and all very dead. During their joint reign however, she issued a *solidus* with her own portrait on the obverse, and her son on the reverse, the "dead side." It is doubtful that this was his first "wake-up" call, and he successfully banished her for a time, but fatefully and fatally, he invited her to return. Her gratitude was swift as she ordered his immediate capture and blinding in a manner so savage that he died soon after.

Constantine VI and Irene
(Photo #12)

Irene's reign (793-802) was the first time a woman alone exercised sole power on the throne. The Empire in the West was not pleased.

* * *

Rita Jene Says

Now the year 2000 is here
canned goods I have in stock,
I hoarded bottled water galore,
Y2K scare was a crock.

So the area shelters
will benefit by my greed,
Since panic drained my wallet,
I'll wait for the coin that I need.

FOR OVER 50 YEARS
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See Your Local Coin Dealer
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[11] See photos below.
[12] Photo courtesy of Harlan Berk. Constantine V and his son Leo IV on the obverse. Leo III on the reverse.
[13] His mother was a Kazar Princess.
[14] Sear David R., *Byzantine Coins & Their Values*, 1974; 1583, pg. 258.

Secretary Notes ... page 6

WIN General Meeting
Long Beach, CA
February 12, 2000

Meeting called to order at 8:15 AM by President **Patti Jagger**. Coffee and rolls were provided by Long Beach Coin and Collectibles for which the members and guests were very grateful on this damp California morning.

FUN minutes were read and approved as read. Treasurer's report was provided by **Dorothy Baber**. The balance in the savings and checking's account is $7,272.21. **Gloria Peters** provided the editor's report: *Winning Ways* is thriving with new authors providing articles. **Prue Fitts** is doing a large article with illustrations for the journal. **Rita Jene Sledz** is writing articles and poetry as well. Gloria says she needs articles. Patti indicated that the advertising is being solicited and tracked by **Roland Finner**. Patti has been assisting with this large chore.

Marlene Highfill indicated that she has been working on a campaign for a girl scout coin collecting merit badge. She stated that the girl scouts have a collecting badge but do not have a coin collecting badge. Boy Scouts have had a merit badge for coin collecting for many years. Marlene will be gathering national support for this effort and would like any persons wishing to support this effort to send a letter to her at: Oklahoma Coin Exchange, P.O. Box 25, Broken Arrow, OK 74013. She will take these letters of support to Savannah, GA to Girl Scouts Headquarters. The criteria for the badge has already been established. It is just necessary to convince Girl Scouts administration that such a merit badge is desireable.

As fundraising chairperson, **Jerry Morgan** stated that the WIN board had a productive meeting on Thursday night and will launch a program in cooperation and coordination with the Canadian Mint for sales of special sets.

Patti indicated that there will be a table for WIN at Philadelphia as long as she can assure the show coordinators that the table will be staffed. She needs volunteers for 2 to 3 hours daily at the table. Robert H. Campbell requested Patti to contact Carol Campbell, his spouse, as he was of the opinion that she would be glad to help with staffing the table at the Philadelphia show.

Patti indicated that the nominations for year 2000 WIN board are as follows:
Cindy Grellman—President; Don Charters—Vice President
Rita Jene Sledz—Secretary; Dorothy Baber—Treasurer
Gloria Peters—Editor; Jerry Morgan—Fundraising
Roland Finner—Advertising; Patti Jagger—Parliamentarian
Loreli Lissor—Publicity

Nominations from the floor were solicited. None were made. A motion was made by **Helen Carmody-Lebo** to accept the nominations; Gloria Peters —seconded. All aye.

Patti brought an issue to the general meeting about Associate Membership. The Bylaws provide that Associate Members have full voting rights, receive a pin and do not receive a copy of *Winning Ways*. The Bylaws do not delineate whether the Associate Member may hold office. Patti wished to have discussion of this topic. There was discussion with only two persons expressing preference that Associates not hold office. A motion was subsequently made by **Brenda Bishop** and seconded from the floor. A vote passed on the floor by majority. The Bylaws will be changed so that Associates may hold office.

Brenda Bishop will be installing the new board at Central States Show. Speaker at Central States will be Marvin Meracle. His topic will be "What Really Happens When You Have A Robbery."

H. Robert Campbell was invited to speak about an award which was given at this show by ANA to a dealer. The dealers were rewarded by a $1,000.00 check for successful efforts in identifying a collection of 800 ancient coins being offered for sale as stolen, and setting up the thief for an arrest. The thief confessed and is now in prison. The owner of the collection was extremely delighted to have his coins returned. The dealers are Ronald Kurtz and Dave Henderson of Whittier Coins. Mr. Kurtz immediately thanked the ANA but donated the check back to ANA for the YN program.

Brenda Bishop accepted the check back to the ANA for the YN program just following the WIN meeting.

With no further business, the speaker **Dr. Walter Ostromecki** was introduced. He did the honors by drawing the slips for the door prizes. The door prizes were donated by Scotsman Coins and Patti Jagger. Helen Carmody-Lebo won the Save the Whales set from Canadian Mint and donated it to the YN's; Mike Edgerton won the Diana Commemorative; Marlene Highfill for Chelsea Highfill and Cindy Mohon won bookmarks. Judith Kagin won the crossword puzzle book. Dr. Ostromecki won the numismatic book.

Dr. Walter Ostromecki's lecture was about 'The Influence of Women in the Numismatic Hobby'. It was very unfortunate that the general business meeting had taken quite a lot of the hour and only about 10-15 minutes remained for Dr. Ostromecki's speech. He brought a lot of material for display. He presented as much of the material as possible and this tantalizing sample made the audience want the rest of the lecture. He described the first two women who were hired to work in the Philadelphia Mint where they adjusted the planchets. They were paid 50 cents a day; half of a man's wage at the Mint. Dr. Ostromecki indicated that opportunities opened up for women during and after the Civil War. Women were hired at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing for a skill that was believed to be better developed on the distaff side: handling scissors to cut the sheets of printed notes. So when you see a perfectly centered early large note, think of the ladies who contributed this effort to your collection. Other examples included that several women were hired as Coin Press operators at the new Denver Mint in 1906. The 1909-S VDB was very likely struck by a women press operator as there were 23 women working at the San Francisco mint in that year.

Regretfully the time for the lecture was over before the material was completed. Our apologies to Dr. Ostromecki. If you ever get a chance to hear him speak, seize the opportunity. A certificate of appreciation was awarded to Dr Ostromecki. The meeting was adjourned.
Sincerely,
Cindy Mohon, Secretary

TRAVEL TIPS

A Canadian Vacation

IT'S A SHORT TRIP TO GET HERE
IT'S YOUR DOLLAR THAT GOES A LONG WAY

If it were strictly a decision of dollars and cents, getting away to British Columbia, Canada this Spring would be a given. With the exchange rate, British Columbia is now more affordable than ever before. A hotel that costs $100 Canadian per night is approximately $69 US. Your getaway budget grows almost 40%* And so do your getaway possibilities.

How far does your dollar take you?	Cdn	US
5 diamond hotel (two nights based on double occupancy)*	$345	$237
2 tickets to a stage production	$96	$66
2 course lunch for 2 at moderate white tablecloth restaurant	$40	$27
2 tickets for admission to a museum	$22	$15
TOTAL	$503	$345

*Based on the exchange rate at the time of printing (US $1.00 - Cdn $1.455) and is subject to change. All prices are for example only (exclusive of taxes, and gratuities) and do not necessarily reflect actual prices. Prices based on Mar. 1 - May 31, 2000 or Oct 1 -Nov 30, 2000 rates

Canada...Ah, Canada

Thank You...Canada... and The Canadian Mint

For your continued support of WIN in particular...and U.S. numismatics in general. Canada is a beautiful and fascinating country. Regardless of your recreation style it should be easy to find in this up-beat versatile country. We in the U.S. are very fortunate to have your country as our 'northern' neighbors.

The Editor: A small traveloge to express our appreciaton.

Sixteen beaches, a cosmopolitan city with museums a plenty, theaters, art galleries, Chinatown and UBC events will keep you busy...or you can just loaf. Your choice in Vancouver, BC

Whistler is considered a mecca for sking and snow sports. If this is not your style wait until late Spring. Hiking, biking,windsurfing and canoeing (5 lakes) or a championship golf course might be your goal.

Whether it is staying at this beautiful hotel in Victoria enjoying hi tea, strolling through the enchanting 50 acre Butchart Gardens or visiting the many stores & highlights in the city, it would be hard to be bored.

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THE BIBLIOPHILE

By Ken Bressett

A Romantic adventure: Edmund Roberts and the Famous Silver Dollars Dated 1804
By Q. David Bowers.

The recent sale of an 1804 dollar for $4.14 million has been called the numismatic event of the century. One commentator even called it the story of the millennium, and indeed it is a landmark event that will live in the memories of everyone involved in buying and selling coins. It has set the tone of pricing for the future of super rare coins.

With the sale of such a famous and valuable coin it is only logical that there should be a fascinating story behind the coin, and an intriguing reason why it was considered to be the world's most expensive coin. The auction room was filled when the hammer fell at the sale of the Childs' specimen of the 1804 dollar. The buyer was not the only person there who dearly wanted to own this monster coin; other bidders were close behind in their appreciation of the history and legend of the "king of coins."

Ken Bressett

Now the whole story behind the great Childs' coin collection that had been hidden for more than half a century has been told in an adventure story by the master chronicler Q. David Bowers. If you have read any of Bowers numerous other books, (and who hasn't?) you can well imagine the scope, intensity and numismatic treasure that his latest work contains. This book is all you could ask for in entertainment, history and coin lore.

In case you do not recognize the name Edmund Roberts, he was the United States diplomatic special agent who delivered the original 1804 dollars to the Sultan of Muscat and the King of Siam in 1835. The piece given to the Sultan was the very same coin that eventually ended up in the Childs collection and was sold at auction on August 30, 1999 for a price that broke all records for any coin in the past and probably well into the future.

The new Bowers' book, that is indeed a romantic adventure, tells the story about this particular coin from the day it was made, and its voyage with Roberts to the Orient. From there it went on other adventures and ended up in Vermont with a man who simply wanted to have one United States coin of each date in his collection. It is a story of pirates on the high seas, intrigue in he royal courts, love interest and outright deception. Considering all the exciting things that happened to this coin along the way, it is difficult to understand how it ever remained in such an incredible state of preservation; yet it was certified as being Proof-68 just before the auction.

There has been another book devoted entirely to the story of the 1804 dollars. The Fantastic 1804 Dollar written in 1962 by Eric P. Newman and myself told the story for the first time about how, why and when the mystery coins were made. It was the first time that a whole book was devoted to a single coin; now for another first, the Bowers book concentrates on a single specimen of the issue: the Child's coin. In telling the story he retraces all of the accompanying history and in nearly 500 pages goes well beyond to include "everything you could ever want to know" about this chapter in numismatic history.

Do not be misled into thinking this is a novel, or some sort of highly specialized treatise that you might read once and then put away. It contains so much numismatic information that it is almost a textbook on how to understand, study and appreciate old coins. The background stories are relative to many other U.S. coins. The biographies of all collectors, researchers,, writers and dealers who ever touched upon any of the 1804 dollars is fascinating to say the least, and is something that is not found in any other reference. This book is highly recommended reading for everyone, and I can assure you of a romantic adventure in its pages. The text is well illustrated and the book of highest quality in every way. The story moves along rapidly except for the days following the ship's log crossing the ocean, which sometimes gets rather repetitious. Pick this book up at any point and you will find something of interest to expand your knowledge of numismatics and the incredible story of the world's most valuable coin.

A Romantic Adventure: Edmund Roberts and the Famous Silver Dollars Dated 1804, is available from the publisher, Bowers and Merena Galleries, Box 1224, Wolfeboro, NH 03894. The deluxe hardbound edition is $69.95 plus $5 postage. It is fully illustrated, 8.5" by 11", and of the usual superb quality we have all come to appreciate from this respected author.

Numis Mania Answers

Questions on page 22

1. Short bits
2. Confederate Treasury at Richmond, Virginia
3. 8
4. Variety I
5. Frank A. Leach
6. Walter Pershke who purchased a Brasher Doubloon at Auction '79
7. Makes it obvious by removing part of design

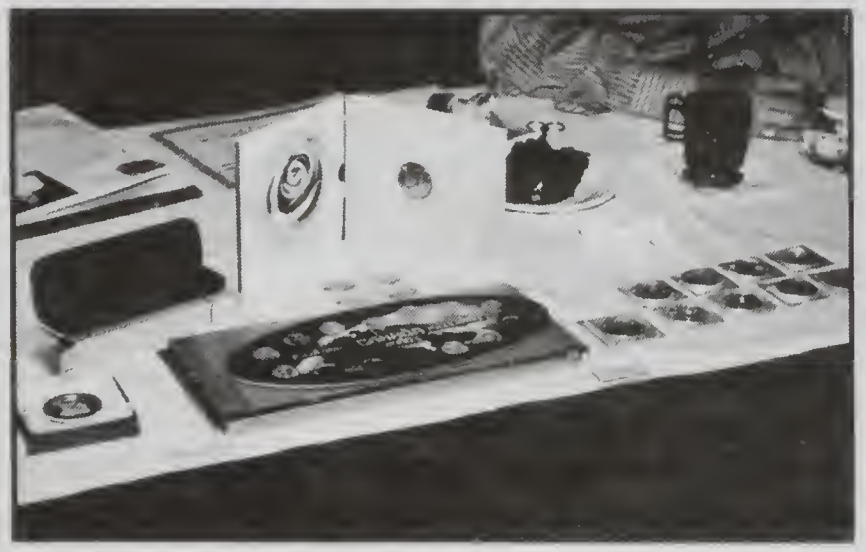
WIN MEETING AT FUN JANUARY 2000

And we start with the drawings for the year 2000 Scholarship...and the winner is Patti Jagger. Congrats!

Myrna Lighterman does the drawing honors for the WIN Scholarship Award.

WIN MEMBERS are amazed at the amount of donations made to the WIN Scholarship Fund by members, dealers and supporters.

Back row, l to rt. Robert Campbell, Cindy Grellman, and Bob Hurst. Front: Cindy Mohon, Gloria Peters and Patti Jagger.



The door prizes were plentiful and gave the winning attendees a wonderful selection. Our thanks to Jerry Morgan of Scottsmans Coins and the Canadian Mint for their contributions.

The lucky winner of the WIN Scholarship fund drawing is Sal Germano, dealer and a WIN supporter.

Bob Campbell, ANA President, hands his winning number to President Patti Jaggers.

And we still aren't through. Patti keeps calling off the door prize winners!

Man and Woman of The Year Award

Man and Woman of the Year Award of the National Silver Dollar Roundtable was presented, at the FUN show, to John and Sandy Gulde at the organization's banquet by last year's winner John Wilson and our president, Patti Jagger. All are WIN members.

Cindy Mohon WIN Secretary(lf) presents the $1000.00 reward given to dealer Ronald Kurtz by the ANA for his part in recovering coins stolen from Rev. William J. Fulco to Brenda Bishop (rt) ANA Convention Chair. See story on page 21. Mr. Kurtz donated the money to the ANA YN fund.

Walter Ostromecki, guest speaker at the Long Beach meeting accepts WIN's Certificate of Appreciation from secretary Cindy Mohon.

Walter Ostromecki wins a coveted Princess Diana commemorative door prize at the Long Beach meeting. Looking on are Cindy Mohon, Secretary, and Patti Jaggers, President.

YES!

I would like to become a member of Women In Numismatics. Enclosed is my first year's dues:
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*Please remember WIN pays your membership dues for each year you sign up the most new WIN members. Don't forget to fill in your name in this area when you actually sponsor a new WIN member.

Please send application and a brief biography to:

Rita Jene Sledz, Secretary
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734-721-4991

Press Release February 10, 2000

Dealer Rewarded for Recovering Stolen Coins

California coin dealer Ronald Kurtz was recognized today by the American Numismatic Association (ANA) for his help in the recovery of ancient Roman and Byzantine coins stolen last June.

At a brief ceremony at the Long Beach Coin and Collectibles Expo, ANA President H. Robert Campbell and other members of the Board of Governors presented Kurtz with a certificate of appreciation and a check for $1,000 from the Association's reward fund.

Quick thinking by Kurtz, an ANA life member and owner of the Whittier Coin Company, and his colleague, Dave Henderson, resulted in the recovery of 99 percent of the coins stolen in June 1999. The theft occurred at the home office of the Rev. William J. Fulco, a professor of archaeology at Loyola Marymount University.

With information Kurtz and Henderson provided, Los Angeles police apprehended Robert Young, 37, a former employee of the Jesuit priest. Young pleaded guilty to burglary in February and was sentenced to five years in prison.

The coins were brought to Whittier Coin Company by another Southern California coin dealer because of Kurtz' familiarity with such pieces. Recalling a newspaper article he had seen weeks before, Kurtz became suspicious of the coins' origin and called the local police. They referred him to the Los Angeles Police Department, where detectives were familiar with the burglary in the Westchester area of the city.

"It didn't look like a collection you or I would put together," Kurtz says of the $7,5,000 to $500,000 worth of ancient Roman and Byzantine coins that came into his shop last year. "We examined 700 to 800 coins. The more we looked at the labels on them, the more the coins' categorization made us suspicious."

Fulco, an ANA member who uses the coins in his classes, says that when he discovered the break-in, the door to the closet containing his safe had been broken in half and the safe pried open with a crowbar. After reporting the crime to police, the priest thought he would never again see the coins.

"The police first thought it might be one of my students or colleagues, but I just couldn't imagine any of them doing such a thing," Fulco says. "Just when the police were about to begin questioning my students, we got the call from Whittier Coin Company."

Says Los Angeles Police Detective Dan Shultz, "I was pleasantly surprised to be able to recover these coins for Dr. Fulco. Had it not been for the expertise of the coin dealers and their honesty, we probably never would have recovered any of the coins."

"The police were great to work with," Fulco says. "And Ron Kurtz deserves a reward for his part in recovering the coins."

The ANA Board of Governors agreed with Fulco's assessment of Kurtz and voted to give the professional numismatist a $1,000 reward for his efforts. (Kurtz donated the $1000 to the YN).

Established many years ago, the ANA Reward Fund is intended to acknowledge those who help in the arrest and conviction of those who commit crimes against ANA members. To learn more, contact the ANA Executive Office at 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3279-, telephone 719/632-26461, fax 719/634-4085, or E-mail ana@money.org.

Heritage Coin...Press Release

Heritage to Offer the Finest Collection of Korean Coinage in its June Long Beach Sale

Dallas, Texas: Heritage is proud to announce the sale of the Piedmont Collection in its upcoming June Long Beach Signature Sale. One of the finest collections of its kind, the Piedmont Collection is possibly the finest collection of Korean coinage ever auctioned in the United States. Also included in the collection are numerous Japanese and a few Chinese rarities, all of which are equally significant. The sale, which is the official auction of the Long Beach Coin Expo, will be conducted June 8-9, 2000 at the Long Beach Con\ention Center in southern California.

According to Bob Koner, Director of Heritage Numismatic Auctions, Inc., "The Piedmont Collection represents more than 1000 years of Asian numismatics. A now deceased California collector assembled this collection in the 1930s-1960s. Through speaking and writing Korean, he became enamored with Korea, the Orient, and, most importantly, its coinage. Since all of the coins in the Piedmont Collection have been off the market for at least 35 years, I anticipate that collectors from around the world will focus their attention on Long Beach this coming June." The list of distinguished rarities in the Piedmont Collection is nearly as long as the collection's roster itself. "A near-complete offering of 1886-1910 Korean coins, including numerous patterns in \rarious metals, forms the centerpiece of the Piedmont Collection," noted Warren Tucker.

Call Heritage: Bob Koner 1-800-872-6467 Ext 279 or e-mail koner@heritagecoin.com for more auction information.

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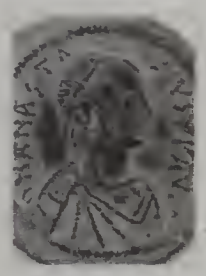

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Numis Mania
Questions

1. What is a 'bit' called that is less than '2' bits?
2. In what location and city did the Union Army seize 60 million dollars of Confederate paper money?
3. How many known banks were supplied with "Black Charter" $5 notes?
4. 'No Motto Above the Eagle' describes which Variety of the Liberty Seated Half dollar?
5. Who was the San Francisco Mint's Superintendent in 1906 who handled the relief fund as well as all financial business for the city?
6. What dealer was referred to when he bid $675,000 for the Garrett Doubloon in November '79 and another dealer quipped, "looking for a very expensive pair of cuff links"?
7. How does a design such as beads or dentils around the rim of a coin discourage clipping?

Answers on page 18

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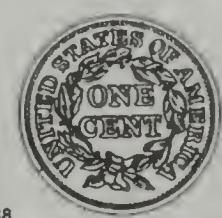

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